

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 10/760,398

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. [Currently Amended] A variable optical device for selectively controlling propagation of light within an optical waveguide, the optical device comprising:
a hidden relief modulation (HRM) cell disposed proximal the optical waveguide,
the HRM cell comprising:
a relief modulation defining a grating disposed on a surface of the HRM cell
opposite proximal the waveguide and having a respective grating index
of refraction n_G ; and
at least one electrode disposed on the surface of the HRM cell adjacent the
relief modulation; and
a matrix disposed between the HRM cell and the optical waveguide, the matrix
being in electrical contact with the at least one electrode and surrounding at
least the relief modulation, the matrix having an index of refraction n_{GO} that
is controllable, in response to a selected stimulus between a first value that is
substantially equal to the grating index of refraction n_G , and a second value;
and,
at least one electrode for supplying the selected stimulus to the matrix.
2. [Currently Amended] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relief modulation is disposed relative to the waveguide so as to interact with any one or more of:
core modes of light propagating within the waveguide waveguide;
an evanescent field of light propagating within the waveguide waveguide; and
cladding modes of light propagating within the waveguide.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 10/760,398

3. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relief modulation comprises any one or more of: chirped; apodized; and blazed relief modulations.
4. ~~[Cancelled] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relief modulation is formed in a cladding layer of the optical waveguide.~~
5. ~~[Cancelled] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relief modulation is formed in a substrate positioned proximal the waveguide.~~
6. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grating index of refraction n_G is substantially fixed.
7. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the grating index of refraction n_G is substantially equal to a cladding index of refraction n_{CLAD} of a cladding layer of the waveguide.
8. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the grating index of refraction n_G is variable in response to a predetermined stimulus.
9. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 8, wherein a sign of change of the grating refractive index n_G in response to the stimulus is opposite the sign of change of the matrix refractive index n_{EO} in response to the stimulus.
10. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 9, wherein an average refractive index of the grating and the matrix is substantially constant.
11. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one electrode comprises an array of electrodes adapted to generate an arbitrary electric field in the vicinity of the grating.
12. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electrodes are positioned out of contact with an evanescent field of light propagating in the waveguide core.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial No. 10/760,398

13. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising two or more relief modulations defining respective gratings, each grating being associated with at least one respective electrode.
14. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one grating is oriented relative to the waveguide differently from at least one other grating.
15. [Currently Amended] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a first mode converter disposed upstream of the relief modulation for converting core modes into cladding modes; and
a second mode converter disposed downstream of the relief modulation for converting cladding modes into core modes.
16. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relief modulation is oriented at an angle relative to a core of the waveguide, such that light reflected by the relief modulation is at least partially out-coupled from the core.
17. [Original] An optical device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a photodetector disposed to receive at least a portion of the out-coupled light.